

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated December 11, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this response, claims 13, 23, 28 and 33 are hereby amended. Claims 38-44 are hereby canceled. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 13, 16, 18, 23-25, 28-30 and 32-37 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 13, 16, 18, 23-25, 28-30 and 32-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,901,399 to Moinpour et al. (hereinafter “Moinpour”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,202,658 to Fishkin et al. (hereinafter “Fishkin”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,261,378 to Hashimoto et al. (hereinafter “Hashimoto”).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 13, 16 and 18 and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 13, 16 and 18 are allowable at least in that each of these claims recites, inter alia, “wherein cleaning upper and lower surfaces of the substrate, and brushing the side surface of the substrate are simultaneously performed while the substrate is moving continuously in the linear direction”. Moinpour, Fishkin and Hashimoto, singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Applicants further note that Moinpour, Fishkin and Hashimoto, singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest the processing order of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claim 13, 16 and 18.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 23-25 and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 23-25 are allowable at least in that each of these claims recites, inter alia, “wherein brushing the upper and lower surfaces of the substrate, and brushing the first side surface of the substrate are simultaneously performed while the substrate is moving continuously in the linear direction”. Moinpour, Fishkin and Hashimoto, singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Applicants further note that Moinpour, Fishkin and Hashimoto, singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest the processing order of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claim 23-25.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 28-30 and 32. Claims 28-30 and 32 are allowable at least in that each of the claims recites, inter alia, "wherein cleaning at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the substrate, and brushing at least two opposing side surfaces of the substrate are simultaneously performed while the substrate is moving continuously in the linear direction". Moinpour, Fishkin and Hashimoto, singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Applicants further note that Moinpour, Fishkin and Hashimoto, singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest the processing order of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claim 28-30 and 32.

Additionally, claims 33-37 are allowable in that they depend from claims 23 and 28, which are allowable. And Applicants note that claims 38-44 have been canceled.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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